

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 56, 63 and 70 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 56-70 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Kuno (U.S. 6,567,121) patent. Applicants have amended applicants' independent claims 56, 63 and 70, and with respect to such claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 56, 63 and 70 have been amended to better define applicants' invention. More particularly, applicants' independent claim 56 recites a camera control apparatus for controlling a video camera in accordance with a control command from a computer terminal via a network in which a control device is adapted to control the video camera on the basis of a control command from the computer terminal and an issuing device is adapted to issue a control right of the video camera which is required for said computer terminal to control the video camera, to the computer terminal. Claim 56 has now been amended to also recite that if the control right of the video camera is not issued to the computer terminal by the issuing device for a predetermined period, after the predetermined period elapses, the control device executes automatic control of the video camera, and if the control right is issued to the computer terminal, the control device does not execute the automatic control of the video camera. Independent method and storage medium claims 63 and 70 have been similarly amended.

Such constructions are not taught or suggested by the Kuno patent.. The Examiner has argued, with respect to the Kuno patent , as follows:

" . . . the Kuno reference discloses . . . wherein said control device executes automatic control (the full view field image capturing, see Col. 4, lines 11-15) of the video camera, if the control right of the video camera is not issued (temporarily

disabled) to the computer terminal by said issuing device for a predetermined period (e.g., the Kuno's system can be programmed for an automatically full view field image capturing at every hour during a period from 4:00 am to 10:00 pm. If the capture time has reached, the right of access is temporarily disabled. This temporarily disabled period can be considered as "the predetermined period". Either the remote computer terminals try to request for accessing the video camera or not at this predetermined period, the control right of the camera is not issued (granted) inherently; and also this predetermined period is programmed for executing the automatically full view field image capturing. See Col. 3, lines 63-67 and Col. 4, lines 1-10. . . . The Kuno's system always starts the automatic control right of the video camera regardless whether the control right of the video camera is already issued or not issued).

The Examiner has thus argued that the period in which the camera in the Kuno patent is temporarily disabled for automatic full view field image capturing equates to "the predetermined period" in applicants' claims. The Examiner has further argued that during this period the control right to the video camera is not issued even if the remote terminals try to access the camera and, further, that automatic control is executed during this period and started regardless of whether the control right of the video camera is issued or not.

However, applicants' above amended claims require that if the control right is not issued for the predetermined period, after the predetermined period lapses, automatic control of the camera is executed. Thus, in applicant's claims, automatic control occurs after the predetermined period of not issuing a control right elapses. This contrasts with the Kuno patent, as interpreted by the Examiner, in which automatic control occurs during the period of time, not after the period elapses, and independently of whether a control right is not issued.

Furthermore, automatic control in applicants' claims is not carried out if a control right is issued. This also contrasts with the Kuno patent in which automatic control occurs when

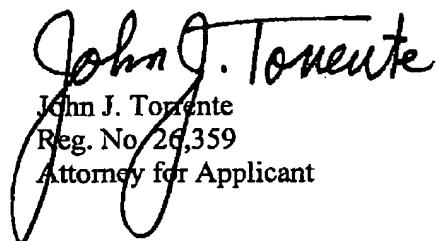
the control right has been issued.

Applicants' amended independent claims 56, 63 and 70, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite the above features, thus patentably distinguish over the Kuno patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' amended independent claims 56, 63 and 70, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of such claims and passage of same with the allowed claims to issue is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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